

# 2009 Schedule of Events

## APRIL 2009

### 4 Mini-Marathon 15K Pre-Race

Contact Mike Palmer N9FEB at [www.indyham.org](http://www.indyham.org) for details

### 5 Palm Sunday

### 6 General Class Study Group

6:00 PM. Old National Bank, SR 135, just south of Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, IN. For info contact Jack Parker W8ISH at [president@midstatehams.org](mailto:president@midstatehams.org)

### 10 Good Friday

### 14 General Class Study Group

6:00 PM. Old National Bank, SR 135, just south of Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, IN. For info contact Jack Parker W8ISH at [president@midstatehams.org](mailto:president@midstatehams.org)

### 12 Easter

### 18 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

## MAY 2009

### 2 Mini-Marathon Race

Contact Mike Palmer N9FEB at [www.indyham.org](http://www.indyham.org) for details

### 2 IRCC Bison Stampede QSO Party

For info go to [www.inarrrl.org/ircc.html](http://www.inarrrl.org/ircc.html)

### 9 MARC Anniversary - Special Event Station - W9M

At W9IMS station in Indianapolis. Event 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. For more info go to [midstatehams.org](http://midstatehams.org)

### 15-17 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, Indiana

For more info go to [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)

### 16 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

### 16 Geist 1/2 Marathon, Indianapolis, IN

Contact Mike Palmer N9FEB at [www.indyham.org](http://www.indyham.org) for details

### 23 500 Festival Parade, Indianapolis, IN

Contact Mike Palmer N9FEB at [www.indyham.org](http://www.indyham.org) for details

### 24 Indianapolis 500 Mile Race, Indianapolis, IN

### 25 Memorial Day



Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club  
P. O. Box 836  
Franklin, IN 46131  
[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)  
317.887.2558

*Spark Gap*

## Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

**See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our**

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## NWS Spotter Training

### NWS CHANGES HAIL CRITERIA

One-inch hail pounding on the roof of your car or house just doesn't get it anymore. As of April 2009, the National Weather Service in Indiana has changed the hail criteria to one-inch or more before sounding an alarm. This change comes following a four-year study of hail size and tornado activity in Kansas and several other mid-western states. They determined winds strong enough to cause property damage develop as hail reaches the one-inch mark. According to Dan McCarthy, Meteorologist in Charge at the Indianapolis NWS office, hail in excess of one inch usually indicates stronger winds aloft that can produce tornadoes.

NWS will be looking for wind reports beginning at 59 mph. Healthy trees begin to lose branches and uproot when winds exceed 60 mph. Officials ask that Amateur Radio Severe Weather Spotters stay alert to these new wind and hail criteria. Reports of strong winds and smaller hail will be accepted but not given as much importance as before.

-Jack w8ish



Dan McCarthy, Head Meteorologist-in-Charge of Indianapolis NWS office giving Spotter Training Class in Johnson County W8ISH

## Donated Items

### COLD CASH

Drake, ICOM, Kenwood and Allied radio products were among the used ham gear sold on the MARC table at the Columbus Hamfest. Early morning frigid temperatures made for cold cash as club Treasurer Steve Carmean K9DY and club Prez Jack Parker W8ISH hawked several classic Amateur Radio pieces. At last count several hundred dollars in new funds were deposited for club activities. Most of the big ticket items were donated by Ralph Walsh, KA9FFC. Walsh, a long time Greenwood resident, recently moved to Florida where antenna restrictions have cut into his on air HF activities.

Despite cooler weather and a down economy the late March Hamfest at the Bartholomew County fairgrounds was called a success. Everyone was either looking or offering major discounts on used equipment. For the first time in recent years all indoor and outdoor vendor tables were covered with new and used ham gear. Steve and Jack filled the last outdoor table.

Dave Wendt KA9OOH and the MARC VE team tested over a dozen Amateur Radio license candidates. The two hour session saw several new Tech's, a couple of General Class upgrades and as well as two new Extra Class operators. Ten VE's from Johnson, Decatur and Bartholomew counties signed off on the successful license exams. This was the first test session for newly certified examiner, Marc Snell KB9MCC. Congrats and welcome to the MARC VE Team. - Jack w8ish



K9DY and W8ISH at Columbus. Photo by Mrs. K9DY.

**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL**  
**Tone**

**Weekly Net**  
**Every Sunday**  
**at 7PM ET**

***Tune in to hear***  
***the ARRL***  
***Newsline!***

*The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.*

## VE's On The Road

### VE's Test at Columbus

Have test will travel. That seems to be the mode of operation for the MARC VE Team. VE Coordinator Dave Wendt KA9OOH took the team on the road to administer Tech, General and Extra Class license exams at the annual Columbus Hamfest last month.

Steve K9DY, Jack W8ISH, Jim W9VW and Marc Snell KC9CMM joined forces with VE's from Decatur, Monroe and Bartholomew counties to administer nearly two dozen exams. This was the first test session for newly certified VE, Marc Snell. Dave Wendt recorded a nearly perfect test session with all but two candidates passing their tests for a license or upgrade.

Soon our VE team may be putting IMPD officers to the test. The MARC test team has now been asked to organize test sessions for Indianapolis Metro Police Department road officers.

This comes following a crackdown by police brass last month. Following a complaint to the FCC, many road officers were found operating ham radios without a license from their patrol cars. BUSTED! As a result, many IMPD officers have turned the page on Tech License study materials to earn their Amateur Radio license. Three IMPD officers successfully passed their test at the March VE testing session held after the March MARC regular meeting. The exams will mostly likely be given at one of their roll call sites. -Jack w8ish



## General Class

### GENERALLY SPEAKING

Generally speaking turnout for the first MARC General License study class has been great. Eight members gathered around the Old National Bank conference table to review and learn what it takes to earn their General Class license. The Old National Bank conference room has just enough space to accommodate the students, instructors and a couple of HF radios. We appreciate the generosity of the bank branch on SR 135 in Greenwood, IN.

Steve K9DY and Jack W8ISH are leading the study group through the ARRL General Class book. Steve and Jack often add personal experience with HF radios and antennas to emphasize important information. Everyone is expected to test after the fourth weekly class. Future classes are being considered. -Jack, w8ish



Deep in study in Greenwood. Photo by KC9ODU

### Officers

**President:**  
Jack Parker,  
W8ISH

**Vice President:**  
Dave Daily,  
KB9LOT

**Secretary:**  
Jacki Frederick,  
KI6QOG

**Treasurer:**  
Steve Carmean,  
K9DY

**Repeater Trustee:**  
Jay Chrisman,  
AA9YP

**Spark Gap Editors:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

**Linda  
Harshbarger,  
KC9GCH**



# Spark Gap

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## 25th Anniversary Event -W9M



### W9M

\*\*\* SPECIAL EVENT STATION \*\*\*

9 May 2009 from 1400 to 0200 (UTC)

Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club, Franklin, IN, MARC has scheduled a special

event station to be held in Indianapolis at the W9IMS station location.

Contacts will hopefully be made on the following frequencies: 21.340, 14.240, 14.240, 7.240, 146.520 MHz. Contacts made may request a QSL, by sending a SASE to MARC, P.O. Box 836, Franklin, IN 46131.

Brian, W9IND has provided us with the following directions to the W9IMS Comm Center which is located on the property of Mike Koss, W9SU:

1. If you'd rather plug in the coordinates and let MapQuest, etc. tell you how to get there ... the address is 3321 N. Gale St. Mike's phone number is 545-5412, and my cell phone number is 506-1980.

2. If you plan to compete in the "Single Op — Unassisted" category (sorry, that's a contesting joke) and find the Comm Center on your own, a good place to start is at Keystone Avenue and 34th Street on the eastside of Indy. (If I-70 is convenient for you, follow it to the Keystone Avenue exit and take the North ramp, then continue driving north till you reach 34th Street ... look for the Sunoco and Marathon stations.)

3. From Keystone and 34th, head east on 34th Street for about 10 blocks, keeping your eyes open for Olney Street. Don't turn on Olney — just slow down and get ready to turn right (south) on the very next street, Gale.

4. At Gale Street, ignore the DEAD END sign and the fact that it looks like someone's driveway; you'll soon find yourself on a tree-lined lane. Take it one block until the pavement runs out ... and you're there.

5. The Comm Center is the house on your immediate left, and Mike's residence is the house a little farther back on the left. You can park on the right, either in the front yard of the abandoned house or in the field just south of it.

Please mark your calendar and let's have a great event!

*The Official  
Newsletter of the  
Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club*



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P.O. Box 836  
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[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)



Here is the 2009 ARRL Field Day logo. Want a T-shirt with the logo? Linda KC9GCH will be taking orders at the next MARC meeting or send her a request at [PIO@midstatehams.org](mailto:PIO@midstatehams.org).

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